AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 14 (canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) A support element for mutually bracing a fuel injector and a fuel-distributor line, comprising:

at least a first portion for bracing against the fuel injector; and

at least a second portion for bracing against the fuel-distributor line; wherein the support element is adapted to space the fuel injector and the fuel-distributor line apart from one another in a manner that is free of radial forces;

wherein the support element includes a clamp which is braced against a shoulder of the fuel injector on one side and against a shoulder of the fuel-distributor line on another side; and

wherein the support element includes tabs that are integrally formed with the support element and are elastically deformable in an axial direction of the fuel injector and the fuel distributor line.

Claims 16 to 17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 15, wherein the tabs are supported at a shoulder of the fuel injector.

19. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 15, wherein the clamp has a slot in a region of an electrical connection element of the fuel injector.

20. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 15, wherein the clamp is made from spring steel by stamping.

21. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 15, wherein the clamp has edges that are radially folded over to the inside and abut against the fuel injector.

22. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 15, wherein the support element has one of a rectangular and square cross-section.

23. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 15, wherein the support element braces the fuel injector with respect to the fuel-distributor line.

24. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 15, wherein the fuel injector is installed in a valve seat of a cylinder head of an internal combustion engine, and wherein the support element is guided by the cylinder head.

25. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 15, wherein the tabs of the support element have a circumferential groove.

26. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 25, wherein the circumferential groove engages with a projection formed at a shoulder of the fuel injector.

27. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 26, wherein the shoulder formed on the fuel injector is radially inclined inwardly at a selected angle.

28. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 27, wherein contact surfaces of the tabs of the support element are inclined at an angle substantially similar to the selected angle.